

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 08212 141934Z
ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6667
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T CAIRO 08212

EXDIS (DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS)

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, IS, EG
SUBJECT: SUGGESTED PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM SADAT TO
- BEGIN ON TERRORIST ATTACK ON BUS

REF: (A)STATE 63682, (B)CAIRO 8162, (C)TEL AVIV 3457

1. AT 1815 LOCAL VP MUBARAK TELEPHONED. SAID HE HAD EARLIER TODAY TALKED TO SADAT IN BENI SUEF ABOUT YOUR SUGGESTION THAT I HAD CONVEYED THROUGH HIM AND MY DESIRE MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT TO DISCUSS IT. SADAT HAD AGREED TO RECEIVE ME TOMORROW, WHICH HAD BEEN BASIS OF SHABAN'S CALL (REF B).

2. IN BENI SUEF, HOWEVER, SADAT HAD BEEN INTERVIEWED BY CBS. THE PRESIDENT HAD TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE OCCASION TO INDICATE, AS MUBARAK PUT IT TO ME, HOW SORRY HE IS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED LAST SATURDAY AND ALSO HOW SORRY HE IS FOR THOSE WHO WERE KILLED. THIS KIND OF THING SIMPLY LEADS TO A VICIOUS CIRCLE. MUBARAK NOTED, NEVERTHELESS, THAT SADAT HAD TO BE "CAUTIOUS" IN WHAT HE SAID LEST HE OPEN HIMSELF TO FURTHER ARAB REJECTIONIST

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ATTACKS. THE INTERVIEW, ACCORDING TO MUBARAK, SHOULD BE BROADCAST TODAY OR TOMORROW. SADAT HAD ASKED MUBARAK TO TELL ME ABOUT INTERVIEW AND WONDERED WHETHER OUR MEETING IS STILL NECESSARY. I SAID I COULD NOT MAKE A JUDGMENT UNTIL I HAD SEEN OR HEARD THE INTERVIEW, BUT FROM HIS DESCRIPTION IT WAS HARDLY LIKELY TO SUFFICE. I STILL THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF I COULD IMPRESS

UPON THE PRESIDENT PERSONALLY HOW IMPORTANT IT IS AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME THAT HE MAKE SOME STATEMENT OR SEND SOME MESSAGE CONDEMNING THE ACTION.

3. I THEN TOOK THE LIBERTY OF TELLING HIM ABOUT WEIZMAN'S BITTER REACTION TO GAMASY'S FAILURE TO SEND A MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE FOLLOWING THE TERRORIST ATTACK. I RECALLED WEIZMAN HAD SENT GAMASY A MESSAGE AFTER THE LARNACA DISASTER. I WAS MENTIONING THIS TO HIM SOLELY SO HE COULD UNDERSTAND THE DEPTH OF ISRAELI FEELING ABOUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED AND THEIR INABILITY TO UNDERSTAND WHY THERE HAS BEEN NO MESSAGE FROM EITHER THE PRESIDENT OR GAMASY EXPRESSING REGRETS AND CONDEMNING THE ACTION. THIS WAS TRUE EVEN OF WEIZMAN, FOR WHOM I KNEW SADAT, HE AND GAMASY HAVE SUCH HIGH REGARD. I HAD TO TELL HIM IN ALL FRANKNESS THAT EGYPTIAN FAILURE TO SEND SUCH MESSAGE IS HURTING THEIR OWN REPUTATION AMONG ISRAELIS.

4. MUBARAK BECAME RATHER EXCITED. HE SAID THAT, HOWEVER MUCH GOE MAY PRIVATELY DEPLORE THE INCIDENT, THE ISRAELIS MUST BE "CRAZY" TO EXPECT SADAT OR GAMASY TO SEND A MESSAGE CONDEMNING THE ACTION. DOING SO WILL BRING DOWN WIDESPREAD ARAB CRITICISM, INCLUDING FROM MODERATE FRIENDS SUCH AS SAUDI ARABIA. THE FAULT, MUBARAK REITERATED WITH CONSIDERABLE EMOTION, RESTS SQUARELY WITH BEGIN FOR NEGATING LEGITIMATE PALESTINIAN RIGHTS.

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5. I SHALL STILL TRY TO SEE SADAT TOMORROW, BUT I FEAR EGYPTIANS FEEL THEY ARE ALREADY OVEREXPOSED AND ARE NOT INCLINED TO SHOW MUCH MORE COURAGE BY PUBLICLY CONDEMNING THIS INCIDENT. GAMASY, OF COURSE, IS IN PARIS. EILTS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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